



Book Review: "The Archaeology Of American Cities" by Nan A. Rothschild

By: Kelly McCallister

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52-2626 GN479 2013-45793 CIP
Lincoln, Bruce. **Discourse and the construction of society: comparative studies of myth, ritual, and classification.** 2nd ed. Oxford, 2014. 282p bibl index afp ISBN 9780199372362 pbk, \$35.00

This second edition of Lincoln's classic study (CH, Jan'90, 27-2782) reaffirms that ritual, myth, and related forms of discourse are fundamental to the ideological and material (re)formation of society. In this comparative tour de force, Lincoln (Chicago) mobilizes fascinating case studies from around the world to demonstrate that the power of religious and political taxonomies lies not simply in the realm of signification but also in their capacity to evoke deep-seated emotions of solidarity, estrangement, and social differentiation. Written in clear, engaging prose, this analysis of subjects as diverse as the Swazi Incwala ceremony, anticlerical exhumations during the Spanish Civil War, the St. Bartholomew's Day massacre, Zoroastrian eschatology, and professional wrestling reveals that discursive practices do much more than legitimize or mystify political power. Rather, they prefigure the fields of social action and can play an instrumental role in resistance movements and the destabilization of cultural norms. The three new chapters that supplement the edition explore ideologies of affinity and alterity as expressed in Greek myths of European-Asian kinship, racial tensions underlying contemporary Lakota Sun Dance ceremonies, and pollution and food taboos in Zoroastrian theology. Lincoln's revised work remains indispensable reading for students interested in the political efficacy of ritual performance and authoritative religious discourse. **Summing Up: ★★★★★** Essential. Upper-division undergraduates and above.—*E. R. Swenson, University of Toronto*

52-2627 HT114 2013-40412 CIP
Making ancient cities: space and place in early urban societies, ed. by Andrew T. Creekmore III and Kevin D. Fisher. Cambridge, 2014. 419p bibl index ISBN 9781107046528 cloth, \$99.00

V. Gordon Childe could not have predicted the profound impact of his "urban revolution" concept (first introduced in 1936), whose comparativist approach and urban checklist set the agenda for the next eight decades of archaeological research on cities. This volume's coeditors have assembled authors who extend Childe's ancient city database and expand his definition of urbanism through empirically grounded archaeological case studies. Plan views, artifact distributions, and settlement survey maps accompany most chapters. Some authors offer new perspectives on familiar regions (e.g., the classical world, Mesoamerica, the Near East), like urban spaces, core-hinterland relationships, and the social production of space; a few examine poorly known regions (e.g., Africa, Asia). Contributors bridge the gulf that postmodernist critiques opened in the archaeological study of cities by questioning their respective archaeological records. The volume's comparative sensibility, occasionally explicit but always lurking, provides cohesion between otherwise disparate studies. This thoughtful, wide-ranging collection on ancient urbanism will prove informative to readers across the varieties and beyond the confines of archaeology. **Summing Up: ★★★** Highly recommended. Upper-division undergraduates and above.—*M. T. Stark, University of Hawai'i-Manoa*

52-2628 F1435 2014-1245 CIP
Palka, Joel W. **Maya pilgrimage to ritual landscape: insights from archaeology, history, and ethnography.** New Mexico, 2014. 374p bibl index ISBN 9780826354747 cloth, \$75.00

Palka (anthropology and Latin American and Latino studies, Univ. of Illinois at Chicago) is an authority on Maya prehistory and ethnology

and author of *Unconquered Lacandon Maya* (CH, May'06, 43-5456) and *Historical Dictionary of Ancient Mesoamerica* (CH, Jun'01, 38-2521). Here, he undertakes a comprehensive assessment of a neglected Mesoamerican phenomenon—pilgrimages to sacred locations over two millennia. In a compelling seven-chapter narrative with 157 monochrome illustrations and a valuable 496-item bibliography, Palka documents Maya spiritual behaviors; economic, political, and material correlates; and sacred places. Chapters provide context and cross-cultural examples (notably Peruvian). The author explores landscapes and material culture and community and spiritual interactions with divine places (deities and ancestor spirits) and focuses on ritual caves, ruins, and boulders; islands and water; and mountain shrines, hills, and cliffs. He explicates social and psychological reasons for pilgrimages and world views. Not since the proceedings from the Dumbarton Oaks Mesoamerican symposium (*Mesoamerican Sites and World Views*, ed. by Elizabeth Benson, 1981) and a more recent monograph by Karen Bassie-Sweet (*Maya Sacred Geography and the Creator Deities*, CH, Nov'09, 47-1496) has there been such a comprehensive, detailed assessment of southern Maya pilgrimage behaviors. Hence, this important, readable, scholarly volume fills a major void for information on ancestor and ritual behaviors and sacred landscapes. **Summing Up: ★★★★★** Essential. All academic levels/libraries.—*C. C. Kolb, independent scholar*

52-2629 CC77 MARC
Rothschild, Nan A. **The archaeology of American cities,** by Nan A. Rothschild and Diana diZerega Wall. University Press of Florida, 2014. 231p bibl index afp ISBN 9780813049724 cloth, \$69.95

Anthropologists Rothschild (Barnard College, Columbia) and Wall (City College, CUNY) view the urban landscape in the US as an artifact. Evidence is based on two scales of analysis: the macro—examining the whole city, its spatial array and dimensions—and the micro—looking at the consumption patterns found in urban areas as they are crosscut (e.g., race, ethnicity, class, gender). Based on this model, the chapters can be interpreted metaphorically on the notion of stratigraphy itself, uncovering the city layer by layer: the origins (why we study cities); purpose (urbanization); material evidence (the city as an artifact); the inhabitants both present (race, class, ethnicity, and gender) and past (cemeteries and commemoration). The focus of this analysis is US cities, but the principles and methods can apply to cities throughout the world. Those following the work of New York's African Burial Ground will be pleased by the section on cemeteries, communities, and archaeology. The bibliography is a grad student's dream in regard to the sheer amount of cited sources. This should be the definitive read for all urban archaeologists. **Summing Up: ★★★★★** Essential. Upper-division undergraduates and above.—*K. C. McCallister, Appalachian State University*

52-2630 G155 2013-41903 CIP
Tourism imaginaries: anthropological approaches, ed. by Noel B. Salazar and Nelson H. H. Graburn. Berghahn Books, 2014. 292p bibl index afp ISBN 9781782383673 cloth, \$95.00; ISBN 9781782383680 ebook, \$95.00

This compilation of ten essays dedicated to an emerging subfield concerning visitors' imaginations about the destinations to which they travel is the first of its kind to explore the topic of imagination from an anthropological approach. Involving ethnographic research throughout the South Pacific, Asia, Central America, and Europe, the volume is global in its approach, though the 13 authors represent institutions based in either North America or Europe. At the heart of this collection is